



**NOAA's National Weather Service
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NOAA RECOGNIZES FORT BRAGG AS A STORMREADY COMMUNITY

Officials from NOAA's National Weather Service recognize Fort Bragg as a StormReady Community. The major United States Army installation, which has a daytime population of over 50,000 people, is one of three military installations in the state to receive the StormReady recognition. The StormReady recognition is the result of Fort Bragg's dedication to all those who train, work, and live at Fort Bragg.

On Monday, November 21, 2011, NWS Raleigh's Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey and Warning Coordination Meteorologist Nick Petro, presented Fort Bragg officials with an official StormReady Community sign and letter to recognize their accomplishment in becoming a StormReady community.



Representatives from the National Weather Service office in Raleigh, NC present the "StormReady recognition sign and letter to Fort Bragg garrison commander Col. Stephen Sicinski and members of the Fort Bragg Directorate of Emergency Services. Pictured from left to right include Nick Petro, Warning Coordinator Meteorologist, National Weather Service - Raleigh; Darin Figurskey, Meteorologist in-Charge, National Weather Service - Raleigh; Hugh Tarrer, I2MC (Warning Point) Operations Supervisor, Directorate of Emergency Services ; Col. Stephen Sicinski, Fort Bragg Garrison Commander; Richard Butler, Chief of Operations, Simmons Army Air Field Weather Station; and Victoria Post, Chief, I2MC (Warning Point), Directorate of Emergency Services. Missing in the photo is Dave Ice, Chief, Current Operations (EOC), Fort Bragg Directorate of Plans, Operations, and Mobilization.

The StormReady program encourages public and private organizations to take a proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations and awareness. The Sand Hills region of the state has a long history of severe weather ranging from snow storms to flooding and tornadoes. Fort Bragg was directly impacted by the tornado outbreak of April 16, 2011. It is the goal of the StormReady program to mitigate the impact of severe weather through community education and preparedness. The nationwide community preparedness program uses a grassroots approach to help organizations develop plans to handle local severe weather and

flooding threats. The program is voluntary and provides communities with clear-cut advice from a partnership between the local NWS Weather Forecast Office and state and local emergency managers. "StormReady" started in 1999 with seven communities in the Tulsa, Okla., area. There are now more than 1800 "StormReady" sites in 48 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

To be recognized as StormReady, a business, school, community or county must:

- Establish a warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have multiple ways to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and disseminate alerts.
- Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The National Weather Service worked closely with officials from Fort Bragg to achieve the aforementioned StormReady requirements, and would like to recognize and congratulate the following individuals for their hard work and dedication to Fort Bragg and the StormReady program: Col. Stephen Sicinski, Fort Bragg Garrison Commander; Victoria Post, Chief, I2MC, Directorate of Emergency Services; Hugh Tarrer, Operations Supervisor, I2MC, Directorate of Emergency Services; Richard Butler, Chief of Operations, Simmons Army Air Field Weather Station; Dave Ice, Chief, Current Operations, Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization; and Calvin McKenzie, Plans and Operations Officer.

For more information about the StormReady Program, please visit <http://stormready.noaa.gov>.